

# Water Conservation



## Free or Low Cost Irrigation Programs

**Free Rain Sensors or Voucher Program** - For any property with an existing irrigation system and a functional controller. Starts April 1, 2008. Details coming soon at [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

**Weather Based Irrigation Controller** - Free controller for qualified properties. Open to commercial, residential or non-profit organizations. Call the City of Santa Barbara's Water Conservation Program at (805) 564 - 5460.

**Irrigation Evaluations** - Free evaluation of the efficiency of your irrigation system. (i.e. homes and businesses) To schedule call your water agency.

**Agriculture and Large Turf Irrigation Evaluations** - (i.e. large HOA's, crops, campuses etc.). Provided by Cachuma Resource Conservation District; (805) 928 - 9269, x 106.

**"Waterbroom" Rebate Program** - \$50 off the cost of a commercial grade waterbroom, reducing water use by 75%. Call the City of Santa Barbara's Water Conservation Program at (805) 564 - 5460.

**Watering Web Tools at**  **sbwater.org**

**Landscape Irrigation Performance Report** - Easily track irrigation water use with an online profile at [www.landscapebudgets.com](http://www.landscapebudgets.com).

**Watering Calculator** - Create a customized irrigation schedule.

**Watering Index** - Change your irrigation controller as weather changes with a one button adjustment.

**Water Wise Plant Data Base** - For fire zones, water efficient landscaping, and turf alternatives.

## Rebates for Indoor Plumbing

**Save Water Save a Buck** - Upgrade your business by installing high efficiency toilets, urinals, and washing machines. [www.sbwater.org](http://www.sbwater.org)

**Smart Rebates** - Cash rebates on water efficient toilets and washing machines. [www.sbwater.org](http://www.sbwater.org)

## Green Gardener Program

**Improve Resource Efficiency** - Hire a certified "Green Gardener" who has been trained in water conservation and pollution prevention landscape maintenance practices. Lists available at [www.sbwater.org](http://www.sbwater.org).



# Tips for Saving Water at Your BUSINESS



## EDUCATE YOUR EMPLOYEES AND CO-WORKERS

Building an understanding among your employees and co-workers is important. Awareness of water scarcity issues and impacts of water conserving practices not only saves water, but also saves money (on operation and production costs). Educated employees will be able to identify problems before they become serious and can help think innovatively about ways to conserve or reuse water within the facility.

## KNOW YOUR USAGE

### Start With Reading Your Water Meter

By reading your water meter daily, weekly or monthly you can record your average water consumption. Water meters generally are located near the front of your property. It is suggested that the meters are read and recorded at the beginning of shutdown and at the recommencement of operations. Any water use during shutdown can be attributed to leaks and the source should be investigated. If your business has multiple buildings or processes, to help you fully understand your water use, you can install a separate meter at each location. Meter reading can be easily incorporated into your existing maintenance, security or cleaning routines.

### Establish Your Baseline

Your water and sewer bills can help you understand your historical water use. To establish a baseline for your average daily consumption, divide your monthly or bi-monthly bill by the number of days in that billing period. This baseline can only be used for comparison if business volumes do not fluctuate. For businesses that have seasonal or growth demands, measuring water use per unit of production is the best way to assess your water efficiency. For example if your business grows, your total water use may increase even if you have implemented water saving initiatives.

## IDENTIFY AND FIX LEAKS

The easiest way to identify when leaks occur is to understand when your use rises above a base level of use for your operations. Once you have identified that there may be a leak on your property, you need to take steps to locate and repair the leak. To locate leaks:

- Look for any trend of increased usage that cannot be associated with increased business through sub-meters.
- Conduct regular inspections of equipment or areas where leaks could occur, like pipe-work joints, connections and fittings. Indications include dampness, rust marks or swelling boards. Significant leaks can often be detected by listening in the absence of other noise.
- Check equipment. Worn, old or poorly maintained equipment can waste significant amounts of water.
- Install monitoring or sub-meter systems that alert you when excessive flows or reduced pressures breach normal ranges.
- For concealed or subsurface pipe-work, leakage detection companies can employ techniques such as pressure testing, flow monitoring and echo correlation.

*Information compiled and collected from EPA WaterSense ([www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)) and California Urban Water Conservation Council ([www.CUWCC.org](http://www.CUWCC.org))*

## MAXIMIZE THE EFFICIENCY OF YOUR COOLING TOWER

Consider eliminating "once-through" cooling of equipment with municipal water by recycling the water flow to cooling towers or replacing it with air-cooled equipment. High volumes of water can be lost as water vapor while performing the cooling function.

## INSTALL WATER EFFICIENT EQUIPMENT

- Install dual-flush, ultra-low flow toilets and Water-less urinals.
- Adjust flush valves on existing toilets.
- Adjust flow volume and run-time on existing faucets.
- Install faucet aerators and high efficiency shower heads.
- Use water-conserving water filter systems and ice makers.
- As appliances and equipment wear out, replace them with water-saving models.

## MAXIMIZE THE USE OF WATER FOR CLEANING PURPOSES

### Indoors

- Use brooms, squeegees and dry vacuum cleaners to clean surfaces before washing with water.
- Use washing equipment that has aerated spray nozzles equipped with shut-off valves.
- Fit hoses with high pressure, low volume nozzles with shut-off valves.
- Where possible, mop floors rather than hosing.
- Switch from 'wet' carpet cleaning methods, such as steam cleaning, to 'dry' or 'spot cleaning' (powder methods).

### Outdoors

- Sweep parking areas rather than hosing, unless it's required for health regulations.
- Consider utilizing a "Water Broom" instead of hosing. Rebates are available.
- Sweep paved areas.
- Reconsider the need to wash building exteriors or other outside structures.
- Reduce the frequency of cleaning external equipment and floors where possible.
- Change window cleaning schedule from 'regular' to 'as required' and use squeegees to clean the windows.
- Unless it's needed for operator safety, wash vehicles only when needed.

## LANDSCAPE EFFICIENCY

### The Potential for Conservation Savings in the Landscape is Tremendous

#### When designing new landscapes and modifying existing landscapes:

- Remove all unnecessary turf areas.
- Group plantings according to Hydrozones for efficient & healthy irrigation.
- Utilize water wise plants and mulch.
- Install Smart irrigation controllers and Rain shut-off sensors where feasible.
- Eliminate irrigation misting – install pressure reducers to achieve the appropriate pressures for efficient water distribution.
- Monthly-complete a walk through evaluation of the active irrigation system. Note where adjustments and repairs are necessary, make immediate corrections.
- Retrofit spray head nozzles to more efficient rotating, low precipitation nozzles (increase in distribution uniformity equates to better coverage and less need to over water to "green up missed area's" and decreases urban run-off.
- Become familiar with the Irrigation tools available on the SBwater.org website. The Watering Index for seasonal adjustments. The Watering Calculator to customize an irrigation schedule for your property based on zip code, plant type and sprinkler type.

### Dedicated Irrigation Meter Customers and Agricultural Metered Customers:

Irrigation evaluations for large turf, and agricultural properties, including school campuses, parks, and recreational fields are available free of charge from (RCD) Cachuma Resource Conservation District .

- Currently there is Grant money available to assist your facility to make efficiency upgrades following the irrigation audit.

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### MORE INFORMATION:

For outdoor water use tips, irrigation scheduling assistance and water-wise plant lists—[www.SBWater.org](http://www.SBWater.org)

For information about the water supply levels in Santa Barbara and the County— <http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/water/>

To Schedule a **Free** large turf or agricultural irrigation audit, call (805) 928-9269, x 106